

ernments. special Employment Programmes are not being implemented through a single agency. The implementing agencies vary, depending upon the scope, structure and coverage of the programmes and the target group they cater to.

[English]

Benefits Enjoyed by Staff Artists of AIR

5694. SHRI C.K. KUPPUSWAMY: Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) whether the staff artists in All India Radio are enjoying the benefits applicable to Central Government employees including pensionary benefits;

(b) if so, the details of benefits enjoyed by them; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (KUMARI GIRIJA VYAS): (a) to (c). The Staff Artists of All India Radio enjoy all benefits as admissible to Central Government Servants except for Pension, Leave encashment and Central Government Employees Group Insurance Scheme, 1980.

In lieu of Pension and Leave encashment, the Staff Artists are entitled to Contributory Provident Fund and the benefit of terminal leave upto 120 days respectively. They are also covered by the Central Government Employees Insurance Scheme, 1977 instead of Central Government Employees Group Insurance Scheme-1980 applicable to Government Servants.

Norms for Backward districts

5695. SHRI SOBHANADREESWARA RAO VADDE: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any proposal to refix the norms for declaring certain districts as backward districts; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF INDUSTRY (PROF P.J. KURIEN): (a) No, Sir,

(b) Does not arise.

Price of Photographic Materials

5696. SHRI PRATAPRAO B. BHONSLE: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government's attention has been drawn to the concern expressed by South Indian Photographic and Allied Trade Association over the steep hike in the prices of photographic materials including colour, graphic art and even black and white films which will wipe out the trade;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Government propose to take some measures to ease the position; and

(d) if so, the details thereof and, if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF INDUSTRY (PROF P.J. KURIEN): (a) to (d). While the Government is not aware of the representation made by South Indian Photographic and Allied Trade Association about the steep hike in the prices of photographic materials etc., it is seized of the problem through representations received from other similar organisations.

The price of photographic material is not controlled by the Government. However in regard to price hike in respect of cine colour

positive raw stock, the Government have recently referred the matter to BICP (Bureau of Industrial Costs and Prices) with a view to working out the optimum price to be charged by M/s. Hindustan Photo Films Manufacturing Company Limited, a public sector undertaking.

Extension of liberalisation process

5697. DR. C. SILVERA: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether Confederation of Engineering Industry has made recently some suggestions to the Government to extend the liberalisation process to some more areas;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the action taken/proposed to be taken thereon?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF INDUSTRY (PROF. P.J. KURIEN): (a) and (b). The Confederation of Engineering Industry in a Press Release on 10th August, 1991, have welcomed the new economic policies, presented agenda for further liberalisation and deregulation. The different suggestions are as follows:-

In regard to Trade Policy, CEI recommended Dollar Accounts for major exporters; issue of advance licences within 15 days; 40% EXIM Scrip rate for PMP companies; Single point processing of IPRS; freedom to set up companies in Europe, Japan and USA; Deemed Export status for the Service Sector; and a national plan for Marketing India and building its international image.

Under industrial Policy, it proposed that Indian Companies should also be permitted 51% equity; Reduction of Industrial Licensing to 2- 3% of Industry; a new Industrial

Relations Policy; Abolition of price and distribution controls.

For the public sector, it suggested 50% Equity holding with Government and 50% with the general public; Privatisation to be started gradually with Service Industries and other select trend-setting companies; Abolition of price and purchase preference and 'no monopolies'.

In regard to Fiscal and Monetary policy, it suggested that growth be sustained through support to Investment by restoring the earlier rate of Depreciation Allowance; reduction in Customs duties on raw materials and massive simplification of the tax system by adopting only 3 rates of Indirect Taxes the lowest for raw materials, and intermediate rate for components and highest rate for finished goods.

The CEI suggestions on the SSI Policy liberalisation included further hike in excise limits from Rs. 30 lakhs to Rs. 75 lakhs and Rs. 75 lakhs to Rs. 1.5 crore; simplification of the procedures or bank guarantees; freedom for SSI to go to more than one bank; and, full review of statutes and regulations covering SSI.

Further, some more recommendations have been made in regard to Competition Policy, Financial Sector, Capital Market and a new Development Bank.

(c) The Government has taken different policy measures in regard to Trade, Industry and Fiscal sectors recently and the effects of these measure on the industrial sector are being closely observed. Further, changes in policy measures would depend on the results of policy measures already initiated.

Efforts in Research and Development

5698. DR. C. SILVERA: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state: